Proposals received from various agencies for providing flush facilities in public conveniences

401. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals during the 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 till date from various agencies for providing flush facilities in public conveniences and construction of own CGHS buildings for setting up of composite (Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic) dispensaries in Delhi, if so, the location-wise, budget-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government have received such proposals from different residential welfare associations and Members of Parliament also, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken on them till October, 1996;

(d) whether Government contemplate to give early approval to the proposals received; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (e) A few proposals have been received from time to time from Members of Parliament, Residents Welfare Associations etc. for opening of composite dispensaries at Sarita Vihar, Ghaziabad etc.

With a view to covering the maximum number of beneficiaries, opening of Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic dispensaries have been planned at different locations (depending on the norms/ criteria laid down) so that the beneficiaries get facilities atleast under one of the systems of medicine from their nearest located dispensary. Due to resource and infrastructural constraints it is not possible to have combined dispensaries covering all the three systems of medicine without affecting the interests of beneficiaries who are availing dispensary coverage as per norms.

As regards providing of flush facilities in Delhi, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Launch of Agriculture Channel by Doordarshan

402. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to launch a separate channel for agriculture;

(b) if so, the steps taken to launch that agro-channel;

(c) whether the proposed agro-channel is going to be launched both at national network and regional Doordarshan centres; and

(d) if so, steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

RBI guidelines regarding norms of lending

403. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued any guidelines to banks for setting out prudential norms of lending;

(b) whether the banks invariably insist upon personal guarantees and/or charge on personal assets of the Directors, when loans are sanctioned to Corporate Sector;

(c) whether banks have been advised by RBI or Government to obtain without exception, primary and collateral security sufficient to cover the liabilities of borrowers, who are outside the purview of the priority sector; and

(d) if so, whether RBI has a system to monitor compliance with the guidelines

on obtaining primary and collateral security?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The nature and value of security obtained by banks depends on the amount of loan, nature of activity of the borrower credit-worthiness and track record of borrowers, viability of the proposal and the element of business risk involved etc. within the overall policy approved by the Board. However, in order to instill greater accountability and making the managements to conduct the business on sound and healthy principles, banks may, in their discretion, obtain guarantees from Directors (excluding nominee Directors) and other management personnel in their individual capacities, when considered necessary.

(d) Compliance with the guidelines/instructions issued by RBI is, inter alia, looked into during the course of inspection of banks by the Department of supervision of the RBI.

Policy towards the Electronic and Print Media

404. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government towards Electronic and Print Media;

(b) how far this policy commensurates with the various judicial pronouncements including the one by Supreme Court ruling for Open Sky Policy;

(c) whether in view of the above pronouncements Government propose to bring any amendments to the policy of Print and Electronic Media; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Regarding Electronic Media, the Government is considering to bring a comprehensive legislation on Broadcasting. Relevant judicial pronouncements on the subject, including the ones by Supreme Court will be taken into consideration while finalising the Bill.

As far as domestic print media is concerned, the press is free from Government's control and functions independently. The entry of foreign print media in the country is however, regulated by a Cabinet Resolution of 1955 which prohibits:—

(i) Publication of foreign owned newspapers and periodicals in the country.

(ii) Publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

The Government continues to be guided by this policy which has neither been changed nor rescinded.

Response to massive health check up programme in July, 1996

405. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken up the massive health check-up programme in July, 1996 or thereafter as planned;

(b) if so, the reasons thereto and the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, what is the reason for its postponement; and

(d) what follow up action is being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Special School Health Check-up Scheme for the students of Primary Classes has been implemented in the country from 22—27th July, 1996. The states of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Meghalaya post-